



Media Advisory

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473
VOICE: (573) 563-4145
FAX: (573) 563-4012
CONTACT: Shatara Seymour
E-mail: shatara.r.seymour.civ@mail.mil

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Post dining facilities prepare to serve some 26,000 Thanksgiving meals

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – The day of thankful feasting is upon us, and Fort Leonard Wood dining facilities expect to feed some 10,000 troops a celebratory Thanksgiving meal.

But, to ensure no hungry soul goes without a meal, the post's dining facilities plan on serving 26,000 meals throughout the day to troops and family members.

For this day to be a success, it takes quite a bit of preparation, patience and coordination.

“It is one of the most challenging and enjoyable days of the year,” said William Moffitt, Installation Food Program manager. “It takes a team effort and true care from our food service professionals to put this meal out.”

Moffitt estimates that more than four tons of turkey, 1,000 pounds of shrimp, 3,000 pounds of rib eye and more than 1,800 assorted pies are slated to be served at Fort Leonard Wood Thanksgiving day. There is a tremendous amount of effort that goes into preparing that much food, Moffitt said. More than 700 food service personnel work together to prepare this special meal.

“I start planning for the next Thanksgiving meal the day after Thanksgiving. There is always something we can do better, and we take note,” Moffitt said. “Then the logistics part starts about 90 days out from Thanksgiving until the delivery a week out and daily preparation that week,” Moffitt said. “Getting good products in — in the right quantities — is one of the first challenges. Then the actual day, managers and cooks orchestrate all the pre-planning, preparation and cooking together to come up with the final products and layout of a fine meal and atmosphere,” he said.

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According to Fort Leonard Wood officials, battalion command teams, companies and cadre block off times to serve and eat with their Soldiers-in-training.

“Melded in one common goal; officers and noncommissioned officers serve and greet our future war fighters to make it a truly festive day,” Moffitt said.

Moffitt said seeing the trainees’ stressful looks transition to gazes of pride, optimism and the realization of being a member of the most awesome organization is fun to see.

“This is probably the first time these Soldiers have been away from their Families during the holiday season. The Army is a Family, and this is about the best way we as leaders can show our Soldiers this,” an official said. “We as an Army Family have to take time to show our service back to our Soldiers. Leaders serving their Soldiers this day shows our thanks and appreciation for what they do.”

It’s not just troops eating on post Thanksgiving Day - many Family members choose to eat on post in order to enjoy dinner with their loved ones who are working.

Family members are invited to eat in their service members assigned dining facility, while retirees/veterans are invited to eat in the dining facility at 6111 Indiana Avenue, Moffitt said. The Dauntless Diner, previously named Tony’s, is scheduled to be closed.

The Department of the Army’s 2013 Thanksgiving holiday meal rate is \$7.60. All service members receiving Basic Allowance for Subsistence, regardless of their grade/rank, are required to pay the \$7.60 holiday meal rate. Guests of service members are also required to pay the \$7.60 holiday meal rate. Dependents of service members in the grade of E4 and below are required to pay the discounted holiday meal rate of \$6.45.

2013 Thanksgiving Day requirements:

▪ Whole Boneless Turkey	4,505 lbs
▪ Ham	1,987 lbs
▪ Rib Eye Steak	3,100 lbs
▪ Shrimp P&D	1,324 lbs
▪ Giblets	160 lbs
▪ Whipped Topping, 16 oz	512 oz
▪ Egg Nog	1,122 qt
▪ Pumpkin Pie	456 ea
▪ Apple Pie	162 ea
▪ Cherry Pie	174 ea
▪ Peach Pie	144 ea
▪ Sweet Potato Pie	198 ea
▪ Pecan Pie	246 ea
▪ Mincemeat Pie	144 ea
▪ Shell Nuts	400 lbs
▪ Mixed Nuts	372 lbs
▪ Cocktail Sauce	114 qt
▪ Banana Cake	8 ea
▪ Cheese Cake	48 ea
▪ German Choc Cake	8 ea
▪ Orange Cake	8 ea
▪ Butterscotch Candy	342 lbs

- Toffee Candy, assorted 544 lbs
- Starlight Mints 432 lbs
- Gourds (decoration) 373 ea
- Indian Corn (decoration) 304 ea
- Pumpkins (decoration) 286 ea

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For more information, contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at (573) 563-4145. Information for this media release was provided by Melissa Buckley, Guidon staff member.

Photo Caption:

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo – Clay Humphrey, floor supervisor of the 6111 dining facility, performs an inventory of canned goods in preparation for the Thanksgiving meals. Humphrey and more than 700 other food service professionals are making final preparations at the post dining facilities. More than four tons of turkey will be served with all the trimmings to around 10,000 troops and family members. (U.S. Army photo by Mike Bowers, Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs)

About Fort Leonard Wood

Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains 80-90,000 military and civilians each year.

Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army's largest Non Commissioned Officers Academy.

Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.
